

**SANTA CLAUS
PARADE**

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

The Times

Minden



WEATHER

For all December--
Bright and sunny days,
full of expectations.
Nights with
sugarplum dreams

Price: HO-HO-HO

Saturday December 2, 1989.

Santa expected to arrive shortly

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Yes, its true! Despite a very busy schedule which includes personal appearances throughout the world, Minden will play host to Santa Claus today. St. Nick has agreed to be the guest of honour in a parade organized by the Minden and District Lions Club.

In honour of Santa's visit to our community, a giant parade has been created, featuring floats, clowns and participants from area merchants, organization and individuals. The parade is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. and will follow the familiar route through the village's downtown. The parade will start at the intersection of Main St. and McKnight Drive,

ending at the Minden arena.

Hundreds of children and their parents have already taken up positions along the parade route in anticipation of this big event.

As is the custom, the guest of honour will provide the grand finale to the parade, riding in his own, specially constructed float.

Spectators are advised to dress warmly and to put a big smile on their faces. Applause and cheering will be permitted, in fact will be encouraged, as the various parade participants pass by. Everyone is urged to exchange season's greetings with his friends and neighbours and especially with Santa as he makes his way through the village.

Merry Christmas everyone!!

Children invited to meet Santa

Following today's parade, Santa will be available to meet his many Minden friends in person. The jolly old man will be available for personal interviews and photographs at the Minden Firehall.

Look for Santa at the Firehall from approximately 2:20 p.m. this afternoon. Be sure not to miss this extra special occasion.



Elves working overtime to meet Dec. 24th deadline

NORTH POLE - With Christmas now only three weeks away, the production schedule at Santa's Workshop has been stepped up to meet this year's record number of requests.

"We've added another shift to the assembly line and converted some of the stable space for the reindeer into a warehouse," said elf foreman Guiseppe Rumble. Rumble is in charge of the North Pole operation for most of December while Santa is busy with personal

appearances in parades and at shopping malls throughout the world.

In a telephone interview on Friday, Rumble said the elves begin preparing for the Christmas season in early February but there is always a last minute rush trying to fill special requests received in the mountain of mail which is sent to the North Pole in November and December.

Santa also brings back thousands of requests from the millions of boys and

girls he meets every year on his tour.

"The old guy is really amazing," said Rumble. "He remembers each and every one of the children he meets and the presents they ask for, even though he never has to write it down."

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December 24," said Rumble, "but he's looking forward to the parade and the chance to see the village from the ground."

Rumble says this year the elves are particularly busy because the number of names on the list of "Good Children" is the largest it's been in years.

"The boss might have to shed a few pounds if he expects the sleigh to get off the ground carrying all those presents," joked Rumble. "Although with the number of snacks that are left out

for him on Christmas Eve, the return load will probably be just as heavy."

The elves will be working around the clock from now until the moment the sleigh takes off to finish filling the requests.

Rumble said the labour dispute which threatened the operations earlier this year has been resolved and hasn't had any lasting effect on the production schedule. "It was touch and go for a while, but with some marathon negotiating and med-

iation by the Tooth Fairy we were able to sign a deal everyone is happy with."

The elves union, the Mythical And Fictional International Association (MAFIA), signed a 50 year contract which covered job security, cost of living and wage parity with the Seven Dwarves.

Last Year the Reindeer, represented by The Brotherhood of Flying Animals with Silly Names (FASN) signed a 25 year deal masterminded by union leader Dumbo the Elephant.

Santa needs extra helpers!

It is perhaps hard to believe, with all the elves he has working for him, but Santa Claus does need extra help this season, help that just about everyone in the community can give.

To make sure that everyone in the area can celebrate a truly enjoyable Christmas, two groups have agreed to pitch in.

The Canadian Sunday

School Mission in Haliburton County is currently collecting items for Christmas Cheer Boxes for those in need.

Last year this organization helped out in 40 homes, providing canned goods, flour, cereal, cookies, etc.

Once again this year, they are relying on the generosity of area residents

to help fill those boxes. Contributions could include food, hand knitted items, toys, turkeys and cash donations. Non-perishable items can be left at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery on Main Street.

If you know of someone who would benefit by receiving one of these Christmas boxes, or if you would like more infor-

mation, please call 286-3367; 454-8347, or 488-2847.

The last day for accepting donations will be December 18.

Also helping Santa this year are the 21 real estate offices throughout Haliburton County. Co-ordinated by the Haliburton District Real estate Board, all member

offices in Minden, Haliburton and Wilberforce will accept gifts of non-perishable food items, candy and toys. Of particular need are toys for older children between the ages of five and twelve. This age group is often overlooked when donations are made. (If you wish to pre-wrap your gift, please indicate on an

outside tag whether the gifts is suitable for a boy or girl and the approximate age range.)

Distribution of the items will be handled by a local church group.

For more information, please contact the Haliburton District Real Estate Board at 286-2635 or any of the real estate offices in the county.

Brownies, Guides sing of the season

Immediately prior to the start of today's Santa Claus Parade, members of the Minden Brownies and Girl Guides will lead the community in a Christmas music sing-a-long. The young singers will gather at the Village Green, next to the Bank of Commerce, on Main Street. Join in the spirit of the season and sing along with these young people as they add their own special touch to this special day in Minden.

Brighten up for the holidays

The Minden Business Improvement Area (BIA) will once again be encouraging area residents and merchants to brighten the community for the Christmas season.

The downtown business organization is sponsoring a Christmas decoration contest.

Gord Monk will once again be co-ordinating this year's contest. Cash prizes

will be awarded in a number of categories including best residential outdoor display, best decorated residential front door, best exterior commercial display, and best interior commercial display featuring the Christmas theme.

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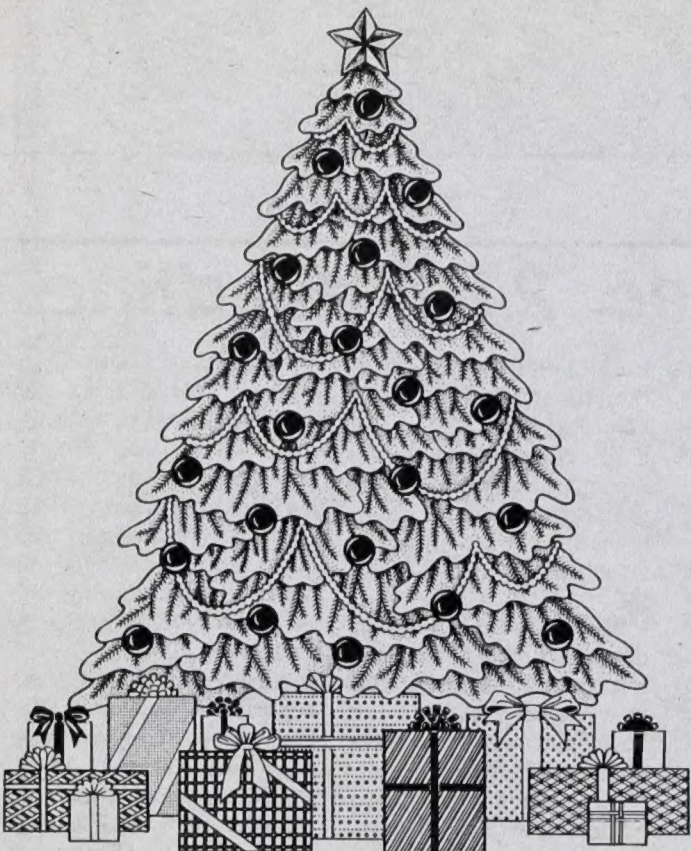
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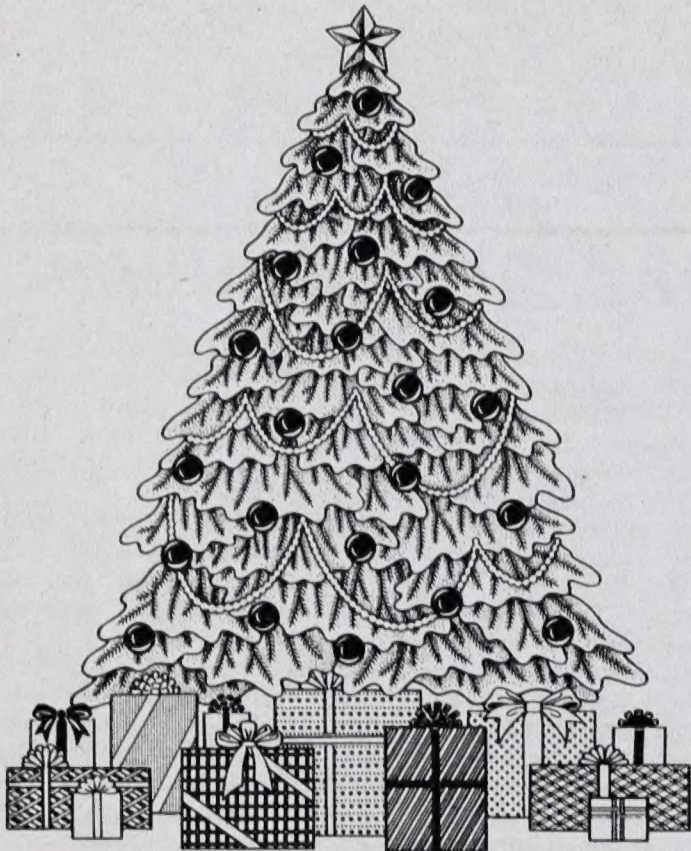
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